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Yves Gagnet

MCA-705 US

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25182 7590 05/28/2009  
MILLIPORE CORPORATION  
290 CONCORD ROAD  
BILLERICA, MA 01821

EXAMINER

GOLIGHTLY, ERIC WAYNE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1792

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/28/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicants are required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-14 and 17-19, drawn to a module useful for purifying a fluid.

Group II, claim(s) 15, drawn to a method of fabricating a fluid purification module.

Group III, claim(s) 16 and 20, drawn to a method of cleaning a fluid purification system.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I, II and III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the technical feature shared by the groups is a housing containing from the outset a cleaning agent disposed so as to come into contact with fluid circulating in the housing. This technical feature does not make a contribution over the prior art. See, for example, US 4,780,197 to Schuman, WO 03080128 to Cuno, Inc., US 6,325,926 to Hansen and US 6,485,641 to McLeod.

3. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

Species 1 the cleaning agent is housed in a recess in a raised portion of the housing; and

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Species 2 the cleaning agent is housed in a space delimited by a cage.

4. Applicants are required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicants must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

5. The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Claim 17 corresponds to Species 1; and  
Claim 18 corresponds to Species 2.

The following claim(s) are generic: claims 1, 14, 15, 16 and 20.

6. The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature of Species 1 is that the agent is housed in a recess in a raised portion of the housing and this feature is not present in Species 2. The special technical feature of Species 2 is that the agent is housed in a space delimited by a cage and this feature is not present in Species 1. Therefore, unity of invention is lacking.

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7. Applicants are reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Golightly whose telephone number is (571) 270-3715. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Kornakov can be reached on (571) 272-1303. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EWG

/Michael Kornakov/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792